



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 1981

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THREE TOPICS BEING CONSIDERED BY LAW REFORM COMMISSION

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THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION HAS RE-COMMENCED SITTING FOLLOWING THE CONCLUSION OF THE MACLENNAN INQUIRY AND HELD ITS FIFTH MEETING ON THURSDAY (AUGUST 6).

THERE ARE THREE TOPICS CURRENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION.

THE COMMISSION EXPECTS TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE DEALING WITH COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION (CHAIRMAN: MR ANDREW LI) AT ITS NEXT MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 17.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR JACK CATER, AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR JOHN GRIFFITHS, Q.C. WILL BOTH ADDRESS THE CONFERENCE OF INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION ON OCTOBER 7 AND 9 RESPECTIVELY.

IT WAS REPORTED TO THE COMMISSION THAT THE SUB-COMMITTEE DEALING WITH LAWS ON HOMOSEXUALITY (CHAIRMAN: MR JUSTICE YANG) HAS BEEN COLLECTING MATERIAL FROM OVERSEAS AND HAS MADE A STUDY OF THE SUBJECT IN CHINA. THE SUB-COMMITTEE WILL ALSO BE STUDYING THE INCIDENCE OF HOMOSEXUALITY IN HONG KONG IN A NUMBER OF WAYS, WHICH WILL INCLUDE REFERENCE TO SOME OF THE EVIDENCE GIVEN AT THE RECENT MACLENNAN INQUIRY.

THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON EVIDENCE IN CIVIL PROCEEDINGS (CHAIRMAN: HIS HON JUDGE DOWNEY) WILL MEET SHORTLY.

ONE OF ITS AIMS IS TO SEE HOW TO STREAMLINE METHODS BY WHICH EVIDENCE IN CIVIL AND COMMERCIAL DISPUTES IS PRESENTED IN JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS, IN ORDER TO PROVIDE EASIER, SPEEDIER AND SO LESS COSTLY RELIEF FOR THE PARTIES TO THE DISPUTE.

THE HON CHIEF JUSTICE AND THE HON ATTORNEY GENERAL HAVE REFERRED TO THE COMMISSION THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

- (1) THE LAW AND PRACTICE RELATING TO CONTEMPT OF COURT.
- (2) WHETHER LEGAL AID SHOULD BE AVAILABLE AND IF SO, IN WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES, AT DEATH INQUIRIES, IN MAGISTRATES COURTS AND AT HEARINGS OF THE LANDS TRIBUNAL.
- (3) COMMUNITY SERVICE ORDERS - SHOULD COURTS HAVE THE POWER TO ORDER CONVICTED DEFENDANTS TO CARRY OUT SUPERVISED COMMUNITY SERVICE AS A MEANS BOTH OF PUNISHMENT AND REHABILITATION.
- (4) WHETHER OR NOT CHANGES SHOULD BE MADE IN THE +VOIRE DIRE+ PROCEDURE IN CRIMINAL TRIALS - THE PROCEDURE BY WHICH A COURT TESTS THE ADMISSIBILITY IN EVIDENCE OF A DEFENDANT'S CONFESSION STATEMENT.

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- (5) SOME ASPECTS OF MOTOR VEHICLE INSURANCE ((A) EXTENSION OF LIABILITY TO COVER PROVISIONAL LICENCE HOLDER DRIVING OUTSIDE TERMS OF HIS LICENCE- (B) EXTENSION OF LIABILITY TO INCLUDE CASES WHERE A THIRD PARTY DEFAULTS AFTER THE EVENT), SO THAT THOSE INJURED IN ACCIDENTS MAY BE LEGALLY BETTER PROTECTED.
- (6) CIVIL LIABILITY IN DAMAGES - THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH ONE PERSON WHO IS OR MAY BE LIABLE IN RESPECT OF DAMAGE MAY RECOVER CONTRIBUTION FROM ANOTHER SIMILARLY LIABLE.
- (7) THE LAW RELATING TO CHEQUES (A) EXTENT OF PERSONAL LIABILITY WHEN SIGNING IN A REPRESENTATIVE CAPACITY- (B) PROCEDURE FOR GIVING NOTICE OF DISHONOUR OF A CHEQUE.
- (8) INSURANCE LAW - AVOIDANCE OF CLAIMS ON THE GROUND THAT THE INSURED FAILED TO DISCLOSE PARTICULAR FACTS.

THIS BRINGS TO A TOTAL OF 11 THE NUMBER OF PROJECTS CURRENTLY UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION BY THE MEMBERS OF THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION.

WORK UPON THESE PROJECTS HAS BEEN UNDERTAKEN BY SPECIALISTS IN THE FIELDS CONCERNED, CHOSEN FROM AMONG MEMBERS OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND INDUSTRY AS WELL AS OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION, OF THE LAW SCHOOL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG AND THE JUDICIARY.

LAST MONTH, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL ATTENDED THE AUSTRALIAN LAW CONVENTION IN HOBART, TASMANIA, AUSTRALIA AND PARTICIPATED IN THE CONFERENCE OF AUSTRALIAN LAW REFORM AGENCIES WHEN A NUMBER OF THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS OVERSEAS IN THE FIELD OF LAW REFORM WERE REVIEWED. THE SECRETARY OF THE COMMISSION WILL ATTEND THE LAWASIA CONFERENCE IN BANGKOK OVER THE WEEKEND AS A MEMBER OF A TEAM OF LAWYERS FROM HONG KONG.

THROUGH LIAISON WITH THE LAW DRAFTSMAN AND WITH LAW REFORM AGENCIES OVERSEAS, PARTICULARLY IN COMMONWEALTH JURISDICTIONS, THE COMMISSION RECEIVES NUMEROUS PROPOSALS FOR IMPORTANT CHANGES TO THE LAW.

IN ADDITION, THE COMMISSION HAS RECEIVED PROPOSALS FROM INTERESTED BODIES AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC IN HONG KONG. OVER HALF OF THE TOPICS NOW BEFORE THE COMMISSION ORIGINATED FROM SUGGESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC.

THE COMMISSION WELCOMES FURTHER SUGGESTIONS ON ANY MATTERS OF CONCERN.

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VITAL ROLE OF FERRIES RECOGNISED, DPW SAYS
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THE GOVERNMENT RECOGNISED THE IMPORTANT FUTURE ROLE OF FERRY TRANSPORT, PARTICULARLY ITS PLACE IN THE TRANSPORT STRUCTURE OF SOME OF HONG KONG'S NEW TOWNS, THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, MR DAVID MCDONALD, SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

MR MCDONALD WAS SPEAKING AT THE LAUNCHING OF THE NEW FERRY VESSEL +MAN HING+ FOR THE HONG KONG AND YAUMATI FERRY COMPANY.

HE SAID HE NOTED THE COMPANY'S WILLINGNESS TO EXPAND ITS ROUTES AND SERVICES — A PROGRAMME IN WHICH THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT WAS ALSO PLAYING ITS PART.

THERE WAS A CONTINUING PROGRAMME TO UPGRADE EXISTING FERRY PIERS AND PROVIDE NEW ONES.

+FOR EXAMPLE, I WOULD DRAW ATTENTION TO THE NEW FERRY PIER ON TSING YI, FOR WHICH THE SUB-STRUCTURE IS UNDER WAY AT THE MOMENT, THE PROPOSED NEW PIER AT TSUEN WAN FOR WHICH TENDERS ARE NOW BEING CALLED, AND THE NEW TUEN MUN FERRY PIER, CONSTRUCTION OF WHICH IS EXPECTED TO COMMENCE IN EARLY 1982,+ MR MCDONALD SAID.

+THESE EXAMPLES CLEARLY SHOW THAT GOVERNMENT RECOGNISES THE IMPORTANT FUTURE ROLE FOR THIS FORM OF TRANSPORT AND IN PARTICULAR ITS PLACE IN THE TRANSPORT STRUCTURE OF SOME OF OUR NEW TOWNS.+

REFERRING TO THE POSSIBILITY OF USING THE AIR SPACE ABOVE PIERS FOR COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES, MR MCDONALD SAID HE WAS PLEASED TO SEE THAT APPROVAL FOR A PROJECT FOR LIMITED COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT OVER JUBILEE STREET PIER HAD BEEN GIVEN, AND THAT WORK SHOULD START SHORTLY.

MR MCDONALD SAID THAT WITH THE LAUNCHING OF THE +MAN HING+, HE COULD SEE VISIBLE PROOF OF THE GROWTH OF THE HONG KONG AND YAUMATI FERRY COMPANY AND ITS ACHIEVEMENT IN PROVIDING EVEN BETTER SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC.

+SIR JACK CATER SAID AT THE LAUNCHING OF THE 'MAN WO' IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR THAT HE DETECTED A NOTE OF PRIDE IN YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS AND A CONFIDENCE FOR FURTHER GROWTH IN THE FUTURE.

+WITH THE LAUNCHING OF THIS MAGNIFICENT NEW VESSEL, I CAN SEE THAT BOTH THE PRIDE AND THE CONFIDENCE ARE FULLY JUSTIFIED,+ MR MCDONALD SAID.

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TAXPAYERS WARNED OF IMPOSTORS

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TAXPAYERS ARE REMINDED TO BEWARE OF IMPOSTORS CLAIMING TO BE OFFICERS FROM THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT TODAY DISCLOSED THAT RECENTLY THERE WERE SEVERAL REPORTS OF SUCH IMPERSONATIONS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID, +RECENTLY WE HAVE RECEIVED SEVERAL REPORTS THAT A MAN CLAIMING TO BE AN OFFICER OF THE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN APPROACHING BUSINESS FIRMS TO SOLICIT FUNDS ALLEGEDLY FOR THE PRINTING OF PUBLICATIONS OR FOR CHARITIES.

+OBVIOUSLY THIS PERSON IS AN IMPERSONATOR BECAUSE THE DEPARTMENT DOES NOT INSERT ANY ADVERTISEMENT IN THE INFORMATION PAMPHLETS IT ISSUES TO THE PUBLIC NOR DOES IT AUTHORISE ANY PERSON TO CANVASS ADVERTISEMENTS IN ANY PUBLICATIONS.

+THERE ARE CIRCUMSTANCES WHEN OFFICERS FROM THE DEPARTMENT, ACTING IN THEIR OFFICIAL CAPACITY, DO CALL AT TAXPAYERS' HOUSES OR PLACES OF BUSINESS TO MAKE OFFICIAL ENQUIRIES OR TO DELIVER CORRESPONDENCE SUCH AS URGENT DEMAND NOTES FOR UNPAID TAX.

+HOWEVER, IN SUCH CASES, THESE OFFICERS ALWAYS CARRY A DEPARTMENTAL IDENTITY CARD OR A WRITTEN AUTHORITY FROM THE COMMISSIONER OF INLAND REVENUE.

+MOREOVER, THESE OFFICERS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO RECEIVE CASH OR CHEQUES IN SETTLEMENT OF TAXES. PAYMENT OF CASH MUST BE MADE ONLY TO THE LISTED OFFICIAL REVENUE COLLECTION CENTRES SHOWN ON THE DEMAND NOTES.

+SHOULD TAXPAYERS HAVE ANY DOUBT OF THE AUTHENTICITY AND INTENTION OF THE CALLER, THEY ARE ADVISED TO CHECK WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S COMPLAINTS OFFICER (TELEPHONE NUMBER 5-79595656) DURING OFFICE HOURS.+

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CROWN LAND FOR SALE
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ONE LOT OF CROWN LAND MEASURING 420.4 SQUARE METRES WILL BE OFFERED FOR SALE BY AUCTION BY THE CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT ON AUGUST 28.

THE AUCTION WILL BE HELD AT THE CITY HALL THEATRE AT 2.30 PM.

THE LOT, IN SHAU KEI WAN ROAD, IS FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL (EXCLUDING GODOWN) PURPOSES.

PARTICULARS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES (WEST WING), GROUND FLOOR, HONG KONG, OR THE CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY OFFICE, KOWLOON GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 405 NATHAN ROAD, 10TH FLOOR, KOWLOON.

SALES PLANS MAY ALSO BE INSPECTED AT THESE PLACES.

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SNT CUP PRESENTED TO NT BASKETBALL LEAGUE WINNERS
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SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES, TODAY (SATURDAY) PRESENTED THE SNT CUPS TO WINNERS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES INTER-DISTRICT BASKETBALL LEAGUE AT PRINCESS ALEXANDRA COMMUNITY CENTRE, TSUEN WAN.

SHA TIN, WHICH WON 12 OF ITS 14 MATCHES, RECEIVED THE MEN'S CUP, WHILE THE WOMEN'S CUP WENT TO TSUEN WAN, WHICH PLAYED 14 MATCHES LOSING ONLY ONE.

BEFORE THE CUP PRESENTATION CEREMONY, THE TWO CHAMPION TEAMS PLAYED EXHIBITION MATCHES AGAINST COMBINED TEAMS FROM THE OTHER SEVEN NEW TERRITORIES DISTRICTS.

THE LEAGUE, INVOLVING ALL EIGHT NEW TERRITORIES DISTRICTS, STARTED IN FEBRUARY. IT IS ONE OF SEVERAL LEAGUES ORGANISED BY THE NEW TERRITORIES INTER-DISTRICT SPORTS COMPETITION CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE, WHICH IS CHAIRED BY THE PRINCIPAL RECREATION AND SPORT OFFICER, MR DICKEN YUNG.

A FOOTBALL LEAGUE WAS LAUNCHED LAST DECEMBER AND A TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE WAS LAUNCHED IN JUNE.

A VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE WILL START BY THE END OF SEPTEMBER AND A BADMINTON LEAGUE WILL COMMENCE IN OCTOBER. TENNIS AND SQUASH LEAGUES ARE PLANNED, AS WELL AS AN INTER-DISTRICT SWIMMING GALA.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE COME FROM DISTRICT SPORTS ASSOCIATION, THE NEW TERRITORIES SCHOOLS' SPORTS ASSOCIATION, THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION.

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FUN FAIR FOR CHEUNG SHA WAN ESTATE CHILDREN
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THE CHEUNG SHA WAN ESTATE CHILDREN'S FUN FAIR, JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE SHAM SHUI PO CITY DISTRICT OFFICE, THE BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUBS ASSOCIATION AND ALL MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES OF THE CHEUNG SHA WAN ESTATE, WILL BE HELD FROM 1.30 PM TO 5 PM TOMORROW (SUNDAY) AT CHEUNG SHA WAN PLAYGROUND.

THE PURPOSE OF THE FUN FAIR - WHICH IS EXPECTED TO DRAW 2 000 PARTICIPANTS - IS TO PROVIDE RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE RESIDENTS AND TO PROMOTE COOPERATION AMONG THE MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES IN THE AREA.

THE PROGRAMME WILL START WITH THE OPENING CEREMONY AT 1.30 PM, AND WILL INCLUDE STALL GAMES, A LUCKY DRAW AND A PRIZE PRESENTATION.

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY WILL BE MR ALEX LEUNG (ACDO/SSP), MR CHOW YIU-FAN (CHAIRMAN, CHEUNG SHA WAN ESTATE BLOCK 6 MAC), MR CHEUNG KUEN (CHAIRMAN, CHEUNG SHA WAN ESTATE BLOCK 11 MAC) AND MR TANG WAI-HUNG (PROGRAMME SECRETARY OF BGCA).

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT.

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TIN HAU ROAD TO BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED
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A SECTION OF TIN HAU ROAD BETWEEN HUNG CHEUNG ROAD AND TSING WUN ROAD IN TUEN MUN WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 10 AM ON MONDAY, AUGUST 10, FOR ABOUT TWO MONTHS FOR ROAD SURFACE WORK.

DURING THE CLOSURE PERIOD, TRAFFIC BETWEEN TIN HAU ROAD AND LUNG MUN ROAD WILL BE DIVERTED VIA HUNG CHEUNG ROAD, PUI TO ROAD AND TSING WUN ROAD AND VICE VERSA.

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